

**FERC RELICENSING OF THE OROVILLE FACILITY  
CULTURAL RESOURCES WORK GROUP  
AUGUST 2002 UPDATE**

The last Cultural Resources Work Group (CRWG) meeting was held at Mooretown Rancheria on June 18, 2002. At that meeting it was agreed that summaries of activities conducted during July and August\* would be distributed to the CRWG in monthly updates in lieu of holding a regular monthly meeting. This document provides that summary and fulfills the obligations of Action Item #C42, as identified in the meeting notes posted for the June CRWG meeting.

The next CRWG meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 17, 2002 at Mooretown Rancheria. (\* There was some discussion at the June CRWG meeting that an August meeting might be necessary to discuss cumulative impacts analysis. It has since been determined that this meeting will not be necessary and cumulative impacts analysis will be further discussed in September.)

**Study Plan C-1 Update**

The archaeological survey portion of Study Plan C-1 continued full time with three crews throughout the month of August. Use of a combined field strategy (re-recording previously known sites, continuing with the 30% sample survey blocks and beginning coverage of the fluctuation zone) also continued, although greater emphasis was focused on the fluctuation zone towards the end of the month. A great deal of time continued to be spent in the Craig Recreation Area in addition to surveying up the various arms of the Feather River and in the Bidwell and Loafer Creek areas.

The crews have completed approximately 78%, or about 5,122 acres, of the sample survey blocks. To date, about 7% of the fluctuation zone has been surveyed.

A total of 440 archaeological sites have been recorded. These include 109 prehistoric sites, 299 historic sites and 32 multi-component sites. Of the 213 previously recorded sites, 112 (or 53%) have been re-recorded and updated.

Research to identify historically sensitive areas within the FERC boundary determined that 69 homesteads were located within or adjacent to the project area. All 69 of the homesteads have now been assessed for sensitivity and 21 were identified for further investigation. Seven of the 21 sites were inspected by an historical survey team, while the remaining 14 fall within the existing survey strategy. Two of these homestead sites appear to have archaeological potential. Historic studies in September will focus on areas sensitive for mining sites.

The ethnographic studies team has continued with archival research during the month of August in preparation for interviews scheduled for September.

## **Maidu Advisory Council Update**

The Maidu Advisory Council met on Wednesday, August 21, 2002. Steve Heipel, cultural resources consultant for the Oroville Relicensing Project, also attended the meeting. Steve introduced the concept of a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP), and the need to begin development of that plan, to the Council. The CRMP is the heart of Study Plan 3, as developed by the Cultural Resources Work Group.

Steve reviewed an example of a Table of Contents from a recent relicensing application and discussed the kinds of information that would be required under each chapter. He noted that CRMP will guide management of cultural resources within the FERC boundary for the duration of the new license. The CRMP will be developed within the context of the Cultural Resources Work Group, and in consultation with the Maidu Advisory Council and federal and state agencies involved in the project (i.e., BLM, DPR, FS).

The Advisory Council was also provided with an update on the cultural resources fieldwork (see above). Plans for a visit to the Department of Parks and Recreation curation facility in West Sacramento by the Advisory Council on September 9, 2002, and the need to address issues involving recreational access to culturally sensitive areas, particularly at Foreman Creek and at the Enterprise Boat Ramp, were additional topics of conversation.

The September meeting will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> to allow Frank Winchell, FERC cultural resources coordinator, the ability to attend.

Prepared and submitted by Janis Offermann, DWR Cultural Resources FERC Relicensing Resource Area Manager. Telephone: 916/227-2024. Email: [janiso@water.ca.gov](mailto:janiso@water.ca.gov)